

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SR-02

ORM-03 /149 W

----- 034991

R 061005Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6610

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, UR, IS

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN EDITOR EXPRESSES SUSPICIONS OF USSR IN REGARD TO AUSTRIAN JEWISH INCIDENT.

1. FOREIGN EDITOR OF ROMANIA LIBERA, NICOLAE LUPU, TOLD CHARGE THAT ROMANIANS BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS WERE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAKING INFORMATION TO PALESTINIANS WHICH LED TO CLOSING OF JEWISH CAMP IN AUSTRIA. LUPU WAS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING POSSIBLE SOVIET MOTIVES AND HAD TWO LINES OF SPECULATTION. FIRST WAS INTERNAL FACTOR PEGGED TO SOVIET DESIRE TO REDUCE JEWISH EMIGRATION PRESSURE. IDEA WAS THAT, IF SOVIET JEWS BECAME CONVINCED THAT TRIP TO ISRAEL WOULD BCOME BESET WITH DANGERS, DESIRE TO EMIGRATE WOULD BE DAMPENED. SECOND LINE OF REASONING WAS THAT SOVIETS MIGHT BE CONCERNED OVER RECENT SERIES OF EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST - INCLUDING EGYPTIAN REAPPROACHMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN - THAT WOULD CAUSE THEM TO SHOW GREATER INTEREST IN PALESTINIAN GROUPS AS PRES-SURE FACTOR TO PREVENT A TREND TOWARD TOO MUCH MODERATION AMONG ARABS. COMMENT: BOTH LINES OF SPECULATION MAY BE REGARDED AS SOMEWHAT CONVOLESTED BUT POINT OF INTEREST IS THAT THEY WERE BEING ADVANCED AS A SEMI-OFFICIAL ROMANIAN LINE BY PERSON WHO USUALLY
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REFLECTS REGIME THINKING.

2. ROMANIAN PRESS OF OCTOBER 5 REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER MANESCU AND ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ON PREVIOUS DAY. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT NOT ANNOUNCED, REASONABLE SPECULATION IS THAT MEETING CONCERNED HIGHLY SENSITIVE PROBLEM OF SOVIET JEWISH TRANSIT THROUGH ROMANIA TO ISRAEL. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL THAT NEITHER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN NOR OTHER ISRAELI DIPLOMATS APPEARED AT LARGE SOCIAL FUNCTION THAT EVENING WHERE THEIR PRESENCE WAS EXPECTED NOR DID ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ATTEND DEPARTURE CEREMONY FOR INDIAN PRESIDENT GIRI (COHEN HAD BEEN PRESENT AT GIRI'S ARRIVAL).
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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